

# **Crossed (Matched) Study Guide**

**Crossed (Matched) by Ally Condie**

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## Plot Summary

Crossed is the second novel in the Matched series by Ally Condie. In this novel, Cassia has been in work camps hoping to find a chance to go to the Outer Provinces so she can find Ky. When the chance finally arrives, Cassia learns that she has missed Ky by just a few days. Cassia follows Ky into a group of canyons called the Carving. Eventually Ky and Cassia reunite, but their happiness is spoiled by Cassia's determination to join the Rising and Ky's determination to avoid the Rising at all cost. Crossed is a dystopian novel that questions the bindings of true love in the face of adversity.

Ky is stuck in the Outer Provinces where the Society is using him and other Aberrations like him as decoys in the fight against an unseen enemy. Ky spends most of his days burying the dead and his nights trying to stay alive. At the same time, Cassia is in the work camps hoping to find an opportunity to escape into the Outer Provinces and find Ky. As she reaches the end of her time in the camps, Cassia receives a visit from her match, Xander. Xander helps Cassia get information she needs to find Ky, but also expresses unhappiness in her decision to abandon him to search for Ky.

When Ky is taken to a village near where his family lived years ago, he decides that he must run away. Ky takes with him Vick, a young boy about his age from a military base, and Eli, a young boy who reminds Ky of Cassia's younger brother. Together they escape into the Carving, a set of canyons where Ky's father once traded with a group of rebels called farmers. At the same time, Cassia manages to get onto a transport to the Outer Provinces with her bunkmate, Indie. When they arrive at the village, however, they learn that Ky has already run away. A boy who knew Ky agrees to show them where he went.

For days Cassia and Indie walk in the canyons hoping to find some sign of Ky. When their food runs out, Cassia takes a blue pill that Xander gave her and told her would provide her with nutrition until food can be found. The pill turns out to be poison, however, and Cassia begins to hallucinate as she and Indie walk. At the same time, Ky and his group have found the farmers' village, but it is abandoned. They take supplies and souvenirs before moving on. At a small river Vick catches fish for them. The following day, Vick is killed when the Society drops poison discs into the river from aircraft.

After spending a day burying Vick, Ky and Eli are preparing to move on when Indie and Cassia catch up to them. The larger group decides to return to the farmers' village in order to search for information on the Rising. In the village, Ky and the others discover that one of the farmers stayed behind to care for his dying child. After the child dies, the group approaches the farmer to ask for information. The farmer agrees if they will first explain to him what is stored inside a canyon guarded by a society wall. They climb into another canyon and enter the cave. Cassia immediately recognizes the objects there as tissue samples the Society has gathered to regenerate appropriate Society members.



An alarm goes off, so Ky, Cassia, Indie, and Eli flee the cave while the farmer stays behind to break the vials. Back in the farmers' village, Ky and his friends search for information in the papers stored in a cave. Indie finds a map to the Rising, but Ky attempts to burn it to keep Cassia from seeing it. Ky is afraid of the Rising and does not want Cassia to go there. However, Cassia stops the map from burning and insists on going. When they reach the river, Ky makes the decision to go to the Rising in order to be with Cassia. However, when Cassia and Indie reach the Rising by boat, Cassia is immediately sent back to the Society to act as a spy. Ky is made a pilot.



# Chapters 1-11

## Summary

### Chapter 1

Ky and Vick throw a body into the river under orders from a Society Officer. Ky says a quick poem over the body.

### Chapter 2

Cassia is in a work camp preparing for the following day when she will be moved to her final job in Central. It is message day. The Officer who brought the messages tells Cassia she has a special message at the portal. Instead, Cassia is happy to discover that Xander has come to visit her.

### Chapter 3

A month and a half after putting the body in the water, Ky is digging graves for those who have died in the fire raids. A group of boys want to go on the mountain to get moisture from the snow, but Ky refuses. Those boys are killed by another fire raid while they are in the open.

### Chapter 4

Xander explains to Cassia that he has been allowed to come see her as part of their Match. They are allowed to go out together in the company of an Official. Cassia chooses to go to a museum where Xander distracts the Official long enough for Cassia to attempt a trade with an Archivist. The trade appears to work as the man tells Cassia to look for a piece of paper under her chair at the music hall. Cassia does and is pleased to find a small piece of paper, hoping it is the information on the Outer Provinces she wants. She has given up Ky's compass for this. When Xander drops Cassia back at the work camp, he tells her that he is going to be trained in Camas Province before he begins his job in Central.

### Chapter 5

Ky and Vick are taking a break digging graves when they learn that they are being moved to another village where they will join some new recruits. When they arrive, both Ky and Vick are shocked at how young the new recruits are. Most are under thirteen. Ky meets a young boy, Eli, who reminds him of Cassia's younger brother, Bram. Eli mistakes Vick as the leader and asks a number of questions Vick is unable to answer. At the same time, Ky realizes that this village is near where he grew up. Ky tells Vick later that he wants to run and that he wants Vick and Eli to come with him.

### Chapter 6



Cassia is at first upset to find the Archivist has given her a story instead of the map that she had requested. However, when she comprehends the meaning of the story, she realizes the Archivist is telling her there is a resistance group out there called the Rising with a leader known as the Pilot. It gives Cassia hope. The next morning, however, fear shimmers through the camp when Officers begin gathering people to go to the Outer Provinces. When Indie runs away, Cassia slips into her place on the air ship. Indie is found before the ship leaves, but the Officers do not seem to care that they have an extra passenger.

#### Chapter 7

During a fire raid, the enemy ship dropped three shells on Ky's village that did not explode. Ky opens them up so that he can rig the toy guns they were given to explode during an attack. Ky wants the boys they are leaving behind to have a way to protect themselves.

#### Chapter 8

Indie helps Cassia hide the tablets Xander gave her when the Officers search them. In exchange, Cassia hides some unknown object for Indie.

#### Chapter 9

Another fire raid hits the village where Ky is. Ky, Vick, and Eli take advantage of the chaos to run for the Carving. Ignoring the devastation they are leaving behind proves to be nearly impossible for Ky.

#### Chapter 10

Indie and Cassia land in the Outer Provinces. Cassia begins asking about Ky almost immediately. There is a young boy who knows Ky, but he hesitates on telling Cassia anything about him. Finally, the boy tells Cassia that he was in another village with Ky. The boy says that during a fire raid Ky and two others ran away. The boy claims to know where Ky went and tells Cassia he can show her, but he wants something in exchange. Cassia promises to give him some of the tablets she has gotten from Xander. They run all night and reach the Carving just before the sun comes up. The boy leaves them, electing to go into another canyon instead.

#### Chapter 11

On the third day in the Carving, Ky and Vick begin to wonder why the Society gave them such good coats when everything else they have gotten has been cheap or in limited supply. Ky cuts open his coat and discovers that there is a gadget for collecting data about heart rate, activity, and other things. Ky removes the gadget from his and Vick's coats, but Eli elects to keep his.



## Analysis

The early chapters of this novel reintroduce three of the main characters from the previous book in the series. Ky is an Aberration who was taken to live in Society to replace a dead child in his aunt and uncle's family. Unfortunately, he was caught breaking the rules of Society and returned to the Outer Provinces where Aberrations are used as decoys in the war against the Enemy. Cassia is the girl who loves Ky. She is in the work camps in the hopes that she will be able to sneak aboard an air ship and travel to the Outer Provinces so she can find Ky. Xander is Cassia's match, a boy she grew up with who is destined to become her husband. Xander understands Cassia's relationship with Ky, but it is clear that he also loves her.

Ky lives each day as though it will be his last because the life expectancy of an Aberration is not good. The villages where these children live are constantly being attacked by the Enemy. Nearly every night several children die. Ky spends most of his days burying the dead out of respect for them which the Officials did not show a boy who died in the training camp. Ky has made friends with another boy his own age, Vick, who has also somehow managed to survive longer than usual. Together, the boys plan their escape from the villages in the hopes of finding a place where they can live without the rules of the Society or the danger of the villages.

Cassia slips on board an air ship that is taking girls to the Outer Provinces. Cassia hopes to find Ky when she arrives. On the ship, Cassia has become instant friends with a girl from her bunk who helped her hide her illegal possessions, a collection of tablets that are said to help someone survive without food for long periods of time. Cassia and Indie find out where Ky has gone and they follow. There does not seem to be a real plan for Cassia other than to find Ky, but the reader suspects Indie has a plan of her own.

### Discussion Question 1

Who is Ky? Why is he in the Outer Provinces? What has he done to be sent there?

### Discussion Question 2

Who is Cassia? Why is she in the work camps? What does she hope being in this place will help her do?

### Discussion Question 3

What is the Carving? Why has Ky run to the Carving? What does he hope to find there? Why does Cassia follow?



## Vocabulary

Mechanism, realize, veins, material, boulders, mountains, rebellion, ammunition, society, compartments, labeled, enemy, provisions, delivered, earlier, embers, glimmers, sufficient, plainclothes, conversationally, trace, current, resignation, compact, questioning, casserole, different.





# Chapters 12-22

## Summary

### Chapter 12

As Cassia and Indie make their way through the canyon, Cassia begins to worry that they are in the wrong canyon. As she and Indie try to decide what to do next, Cassia asks Indie her story. Indie tells Cassia that she lived in a Province near the ocean and that her mother spent months making a boat. On the night her mother tried to escape she was caught before she even lost sight of the shore. Her whole family was given red pills to help them forget, but they did not work for Indie.

### Chapter 13

Ky and his companions come around a curve in the canyon and discover a settlement. It is clearly the farmers' village, the one Ky's father once traded with, but it appears deserted. They go into the walls of the canyon, searching the caves above the settlement to find the farmers' hidden supplies. The search pans out as they find a cave that is filled with both food and writings from the time before the Society. Ky finds a map of the Carving. He uses it to help plan their path, assuming that the farmers moved deeper into the Carving and they should be able to find them.

### Chapter 14

Cassia and Indie decide to climb the wall of the Carving and go into the canyon next to theirs. When they reach the top of the wall they find a group of people who have clearly been attacked by air ships. Cassia notes that many of the dead have blue markings on their bodies.

### Chapter 15

Ky and his companions continue deeper into the Carving. When they stop that night they go over the things they took from the farmers' cave. Vick shows everyone several pamphlets he took that tell the story of the Rising. Later, unable to sleep, Ky carves a compass into a soft rock.

### Chapter 16

Cassia wakes early in the morning feeling ill for the first time in her life. For this reason, Cassia decides to take one of the blue tablets Xander gave to her, hoping it will provide sustenance in place of the lack of food. When she pokes the pill out of the foil pack she discovers that Xander has somehow gotten small pieces of paper in each bubble. They are snippets of information that would have been on the microcard she was given the night of the Match, the one she never looked at.



In the other canyon Cassia and Indie find a wall that is clearly not natural, implying that the Society has come into the Carving. They also find the body of the boy who brought them to the Carving. They continue to walk, but soon Indie suggests they go back to the other canyon because there is no water in this one. After they cross the wall Cassia believes she sees signs of Ky.

#### Chapter 17

Ky, Vick, and Eli climb out of the Carving and find themselves at a small river. Vick shows them how to catch fish. They catch a number of fish and then smoke them so that they can carry them in their packs. As they watch the fish cook, Vick tells his story. Vick fell in love with an Anomaly who lived near his home near a military base. When he chose her as his future bride, the Society charged him as an Aberration and sent him to the Outer Provinces.

#### Chapter 18

Cassia is very sick, but she insists on continuing their journey. Cassia begins seeing things, some she is not sure are real.

#### Chapter 19

Ky wakes late. Vick has gone to the river to catch more fish. As Ky prepares to begin the day, he and Eli hear an air ship above them. Then there are loud noises of something hitting the ground. Ky rushes to the river to find Vick only to discover the Society has dropped poison discs in the river. Vick has been killed after the impact of one of the discs threw him against the hard ground, breaking his neck. Ky and Eli remove the discs from the water before spending the day burying Vick.

#### Chapter 20

Cassia continues to struggle with her illness as she and Indie continue their journey. When Cassia finds a rock with a carving of a compass on it, she knows Ky is in the Carving somewhere ahead of them.

#### Chapter 21

Ky and Eli are standing over Vick's grave when Eli spots someone coming out of the Carving. Ky looks at the person and realizes it is Cassia.

#### Chapter 22

Ky runs to Cassia and they embrace.



## Analysis

Cassia and Indie move into another canyon out of fear that they are following the wrong path to find Ky. On top of the canyon wall they find a group of people who clearly died in a fight with air ships, but it is hard to determine if they were Society or Enemy air ships. Cassia notes that each of them seem to have blue writing on their bodies, something she has never seen before. Then, down in the canyon, Cassia and Indie find an artificial wall that is clearly an indication that the Society has been in the Carvings, something they had assumed they had not done. They also find the body of the boy who showed them where Ky had gone. These things seem to indicate danger in the canyon, suggesting that no one can really escape the Society.

Ky and his companions find the farmers' settlement, but there is no one there. This also suggests that things have changed in the Carving. As Ky makes his way he is overwhelmed with memories of his father. Ky's father used to trade with the farmers and it was from them that he learned to read and write. Ky blames his father for the deaths of the people of his village, so his feelings toward the farmers are mixed. This could prove to be a problem as the plot continues to develop.

Vick is killed by the Society air ships that come to drop poison in the river. It is clear that the Society is trying to starve the farmers out, a change in their past policy with the farmers. Once the Society ignored the farmers and let them live as they chose, but now it is clear they want them gone. This also could be a problem for Ky and his friends as they move deeper into the wild. There is hope, however, when Ky and Cassia are reunited.

## Discussion Question 1

What are the blue tablets that Cassia is so careful to protect? What are they supposed to do? What happens when Cassia takes one?

## Discussion Question 2

Who are the people with the blue markings on their bodies? How did they die? Why?

## Discussion Question 3

How is Vick killed? What mistake did he make that left him vulnerable? Why?

## Vocabulary

Outcropping, plain, exhaustion, canteens, attention, remember, morning, poetry, heavy, compass, understand, carve, celebrate, poison, aberration, tablets, ridiculous, poison,



unnerved, skittering, expression, footprints, distinct, interpreted, attention, believing, changing, escape, scales, anomalies, satisfaction.



# Chapters 23-33

## Summary

### Chapter 23

Indie explains to Ky about Cassia taking the blue tablet, the poisonous tablet. They decide to stay put for the night so Cassia can rest. In the same cave where Ky and his friends slept the night before, Cassia tells Ky about her journey with Indie and about the papers she found inside the blue tablet packs. Ky and Indie both explain to Cassia about the blue tablets, but she is reluctant to believe them because Xander gave them to her.

### Chapter 24

Ky tells Cassia and Indie about the gadget in the coats. Ky removes the one from Cassia's coat, but Indie elects to keep hers. It is decided that they will head back to the farmers' settlement so that they can get more supplies.

### Chapter 25

Ky is awed watching Cassia's joy in the paintings on the cave walls.

### Chapter 26

While everyone else sleeps, Ky takes Cassia outside so they can be alone.

### Chapter 27

Ky writes a poem for Cassia.

### Chapter 28

Ky and his friends return to the settlement and sleep in one of the abandoned houses. The next morning they see a man, the lone resident, bring a small child out and bury her. When he is done, Ky approaches the man.

### Chapter 29

The man introduces himself as Hunter. He agrees to give Ky and his friends whatever they want, but first he wants their help. Hunter wants to meet in the morning. That night, Indie shows Ky a slip of paper Cassia lost on which it says Xander has a secret to tell. Indie wants to know the secret, but Ky refuses to tell.

### Chapter 30



Ky and Cassia wait in the cemetery for Hunter. Cassia is surprised by the youth of many who have died there since life expectancy as a Citizen is eighty.

### Chapter 31

Hunter wants them to go to the odd wall in the other canyon and tell him what is inside. They climb the wall together and discuss how to get inside.

### Chapter 32

Hunter shows them a small crevice that provides access to the cavern. Cassia has a panic attack halfway through, but Ky talks her down. When they enter the cavern, Cassia immediately recognizes it as a storage place for tissue samples. She explains to Hunter that the Society has plans to find a way to bring back its best Citizens. Cassia is surprised to find a vial with her own name on it as well as one for Xander.

### Chapter 33

Hunter has begun to break the vials. An alarm has gone off. Ky instructs everyone to leave. Hunter insists on staying behind. Ky and the others rush over the wall and return to the safety of the caves overlooking the settlement.

## Analysis

Cassia and Ky catch up on each other's lives and the knowledge they have gained in their adventures. Cassia still does not want to believe that something Xander gave her could be harmful, but she cannot deny the evidence. It confuses her and makes her wonder how many lies she and Xander believed from the Society. At the same time, she and Ky puzzle over the notes Xander somehow got into the sealed package. Indie shows Ky one of the notes that Cassia dropped and never saw. It says that Xander has a secret to tell Cassia. Ky knows what the secret is, but he refuses to tell Indie. Ky does not completely trust Indie. Her interest in Xander seems a little much considering she has never met him.

Hunter is one of the farmers who stayed behind because his daughter was dying. Hunter is a broken man who does not seem to care if he lives or dies. However, he wants to know what the Society was doing in the Carving, so he takes Cassia and group to the strange wall Cassia noted earlier in the other canyon. Inside they find vials of tissue samples. Cassia knows what they are, but she cannot explain why they are in the Carving. They seem to be old, perhaps even abandoned. However, the danger of what they represent is too strong for them to stay long enough to investigate further. It is clear that the Society has been in the Carving and they have no qualms about killing the rebels who seek refuge there.



## Discussion Question 1

Why does Indie show Ky the note Cassia dropped from Xander? What is significant about the note? Why is Indie interested?

## Discussion Question 2

Who is Hunter? Why does he take Cassia and friends to the fake wall in the other canyon? What is the significance of what they find there?

## Discussion Question 3

Why does Cassia not know about graveyards? What does she learn about them? Why is this a surprise to her?

## Vocabulary

Promise, hesitate, medicine, liquid, frightens, caught, samples, vials, scrape, preservation, intentional, accidental, familiar, distant, realize, province, organized, relationship, beautiful, overwhelmed, system, disappears, mourning, cocoons, imagine, wondering, skeptical, tightest, experience.



# Chapters 34-44

## Summary

### Chapter 34

Ky and his group go to the cave with the writings to search for the information they need about the Rising. Cassia finds several poems that distract her from the search.

### Chapter 35

As Ky searches through the writings, he becomes distracted by memories of his father when he sees his father's handwriting in a ledger.

### Chapter 36

Ky and Cassia take a break in their search to stand outside.

### Chapter 37

Eli is growing nervous about the possibly approaching Society air ships. Indie steps out to get some air. Ky follows her to one of the houses. He catches her with a mini port where she is looking at the micro card she stole from Cassia. Indie then shows Ky a map she found that appears to show how to find the Rising. Indie wants to go to the Rising, but Ky does not. Ky also does not want Cassia to go, so he burns the map.

### Chapter 38

Hunter returns and finds Cassia in the cave. Together they go to find Ky to prepare to leave. Cassia is shocked to find Ky burning the map Hunter says will take them to the Rising.

### Chapter 39

Ky and Cassia argue over Ky's actions.

### Chapter 40

The group is preparing to leave. Ky and Hunter prepare an explosive that will seal the cave where the writings are kept to protect them from the Society. Indie returns the micro card to Cassia and tells her about Xander's secret. Cassia realizes that Indie is in love with Xander.

### Chapter 41

Xander and Ky set off the charge. They begin their journey out of the Carving.





### Chapter 42

Hunter shares his story with the group. That night, Cassia gives him a copy of the poem from which he engraved a line on his daughter's grave. Afterward, Cassia struggles to understand Ky's fear of the Rising.

### Chapter 43

Ky stays up late that night and paints a picture on the wall of the cave.

### Chapter 44

Cassia wakes and sees Ky's painting.

## Analysis

Ky has been filled with memories of his father since entering the Carving. This has caused him to revisit some old hurts that he is having trouble dealing with now. When Ky is confronted with a map to the Rising, he tries to destroy it to protect Cassia from it. Ky sees the Rising as the same mistake his father made, as a recipe for danger. Ky is trying to protect Cassia by keeping her from the Rising, but his actions only cause them to have a falling out. It is a difficult moment, and Ky is frustrated by his inability to do anything to resolve it.

## Discussion Question 1

What are Ky and his friends looking for in the writings the farmers have saved? Why are these items hidden? What would happen if the society found them?

## Discussion Question 2

Who finds the map to the Rising? How does Ky react to this map? What does he do to it?

## Discussion Question 3

Why is Cassia angry with Ky? Why does she sort him? What does it mean to sort? How does this make Ky feel?

## Vocabulary

Distance, absence, plateau, bristles, paintbrushes, beginning, chance, leader, pretended, official, officer, entrance, epitaph, journey, predict, valuable, original,

protection, benefits, markings, stubborn, outsider, hoarse, accepted, harshly, imagined, comfortable, interested, borough, township, clinging, distinct.



# Chapters 45-54

## Summary

### Chapter 45

The group pushes on until they reach the river. Ky sets the boat down and begins filling it with air. Ky then tells Cassia he took it for her and she should choose which other person she wants to go with her.

### Chapter 46

Cassia chooses Eli.

### Chapter 47

Cassia chooses Eli and Indie to take the boat, but Eli would rather go to the farmers with Hunter. Ky encourages Cassia to take the boat with Indie. He promises to follow on foot.

### Chapter 48

Cassia and Ky say goodbye.

### Chapter 49

Ky takes Cassia's books that she took from the farmers' cave in order to keep them safe. He also shows her a vial Eli stole from the cavern with her grandfather's name on it.

### Chapter 50

Cassia and Indie travel down the river. The river is rough, and they overturn at one point, losing their belongings. As they approach the area where the Rising camp is supposed to be, they are confronted by a boat of dark dressed men.

### Chapter 51

Ky races on foot to the Rising, hoping to arrive not long after Cassia. He hides the papers and artifacts he has in the woods.

### Chapter 52

Cassia and Indie are welcomed at the Rising camp. Then, they are dressed and interrogated. Cassia does not tell them about Hunter and Eli, assuming the others will do the same. Cassia is then told she will be returned to the Society where they believe she will be the most helpful.



## Chapter 53

Ky arrives and is interrogated. When he finds Indie he learns that Cassia has already returned to Central. Ky arranges with an Archivist to get artifacts to Cassia that she can trade.

## Chapter 54

Cassia is in Central where she lives a quiet life. She is excited to be seeing someone that night.

## Analysis

Cassia, Ky, and their friends make their way out of the Carving to the Rising. Hunter will not be going along. He is a farmer and would prefer to return to that way of life. Surprisingly, Eli has also chosen to go to the farmers. Ky would have liked to go to the farmers. However, Cassia's determination to join the Rising has made him decide differently. Despite his fears and his unhappiness with what rebellion did to his parents and the fact that Xander is part of the Rising, he decides to join to be with Cassia.

At the end of the novel, everyone has gotten to the place where they wanted to go. Ky has had reservations all along, but he overcomes them for Cassia. However, his reservations seem founded in fact when he begins to notice odd things about the Rising, such as damage to one of their air ships that could have been caused in a fight with the farmers. This leaves doubt in the mind of the reader as they turn their attention to the next novel in the series.

## Discussion Question 1

Why has Ky brought a boat along on the journey? What does he plan to do with it?

## Discussion Question 2

What is the difference between the farmers and the Rising? Why does Eli choose the farmers?

## Discussion Question 3

What happens when Cassia arrives at the Rising? Why is she taken back to the Society? What does that mean for her future?



## Vocabulary

Reached, enormous, survival, muscles, sunlight, painting, strange, grave, gathered, bristles, brushed, jealous, compartments, striking, match, believable, mystery, entrance, epitaph, strength, unusual, occupation, valuable, pressure, aloud, writings, central, infiltrate, prevent, happiness.



# Characters

## Cassia Reyes

Cassia is a Citizen of the Society who has made the choice to go to the work camps in hopes of finding a way to get to Ky. Although Cassia has been matched to Xander, promised to become his wife, she is in love with Ky. Ky, Cassia, and Xander were all friends, so Xander understands Cassia's choice, but does not always agree with them. In fact, Xander comes to visit Cassia at the work camp and helps her trade with an Archivist, but then tells her how hurt he was by her decision to abandon him in favor of Ky.

Cassia does find a way to the Outer Provinces and from there she follows Ky into the Carving, a set of canyons where it is rumored rebels live. Cassia and Ky find a member of a group called farmers, a group of people who broke off from the Society when it was ruled that Citizens should no longer be allowed to read the writings of past generations. They are not rebels, just peaceful people who would rather be left alone. Ky's father once traded regularly with the farmers and that is how he learned to read and write.

Cassia wants to join the Rising, a rebellion she learned of in her attempts to find a map to reunite with Ky in the Outer Provinces. Ky has his doubts about the Rising and tries to stop Cassia from going to them. Cassia pushes the matter, aided by her friend Indie, and ends up convincing Ky of its value. However, when Cassia reaches the Rising, they immediately send her back into the Society where she can act as a spy for them.

## Ky Finnow Markham

Ky was once part of an Outer Province village where the people lived peacefully, but still a part of the Society. Ky's father was an electrician who traded with the farmers, a group of people who chose to live outside of the Society. As Ky's father learned to read and write, he expanded his understanding of the past and of the Society. This caused him to become a rebel, to encourage rebellion among his villagers. It is this that Ky believes caused the Society to fire raid the entire village, killing everyone by Ky and another little girl.

After being labeled an Aberration by the Society, Ky faced a life living in the Outer Provinces where Aberrations are used as decoys to draw the fire of the Enemy. However, a cousin of Ky's died and he was given a second chance to live in the Society. For a time this was a good life for Ky. However, after Ky taught Cassia to write he was again labeled an Aberration and sent back to the Outer Provinces.

Ky finds himself back in the same area where he lived as a child. For this reason, Ky decides it is time to run and take his chances on his own. Ky takes Vick and Eli with him, other Aberrations who live in the same group as he. They find the farmers' settlement, but the farmers have moved on. They decide to go find the farmers, but



when Cassia and Indie find Ky and his group, Cassia makes it clear that she intends to join the Rising. Ky fights this idea because he believes that rebelling is what killed his parents and he is also afraid that Cassia will learn Xander is part of the Rising and break up with Ky to be with Xander. In the end, however, Ky agrees to join the Rising to be with Cassia and is made a pilot.

## **Xander Carrow**

Xander is a childhood friend of both Ky and Cassia. When Cassia is old enough to be Matched, to find her life partner, she is surprised to find herself Matched to Xander. Even though Cassia loves Xander in her own way, she is in love with Ky. For this reason Cassia leaves Xander to find Ky.

Xander is a medical worker. Xander is able to get some tablets that the Society often uses with its Citizens. The tablets Xander gets are blue ones that are said to be able to sustain a person who cannot get to a food source for an extended period of time. Cassia believes that these tablets will help her in her search for Ky, but later learns that they are really poison. Cassia also has green pills, a type of sedative, and red pills, which cause memory loss. Xander and Ky are both immune to the red pills.

## **Indie**

Indie is one of Cassia's bunk mates at her last work camp. Indie is from a water district, close to the ocean. Indie tells Cassia that her mother once built a boat and tried to escape over the ocean but never lost sight of the shore. After her mother was caught and brought home, the Officials gave the whole family the red pills, but they did not work on Indie. This is why she has been reclassified as an Aberration. Ky later guesses that it was Indie who made the boat and tried to escape, not her mother.

Indie appears to be a person with a great number of secrets. For this reason, Ky does not completely trust her. When it comes out that Indie stole the microcard Cassie received at Match banquet, Ky worries she might have an agenda. However, it soon becomes obvious she was only interested in Cassia and fell in love with Xander through the information on the microcard. Indie wants to reach the Rising because she wants to fight the Society and she wants to meet Xander. This causes some conflict between Cassia and Ky, but in the end they all three go to the Rising.

## **Vick Roberts**

Vick is a young man Ky meets in the Outer Provinces. Vick is a strong, silent person who has such leadership qualities that the others in the village begin looking to him for guidance. Vick grew up in a military family and had a bright future as a Citizen until he fell in love with an Anomaly who lived in a camp near his home. This love affair is what caused Vick to be reclassified. Vick's love ran away before Vick was arrested, leaving him with hope that he might be able to find her if he can reach the Rising. This is the



reason why Vick runs away with Ky, but he is killed when the Society drops poisoned discs into a river he is standing beside, the impact flinging him so hard against the ground he breaks his neck.

## Eli

Eli is a young boy, barely older than eleven, who has been reclassified an Aberration. Eli is sent to the village where Ky is living. Ky is reminded of Bram, Cassia's brother, when he meets Eli. It is because of Cassia that Ky decides to watch over Eli and invite him to run away with him and Vick. Eli acts like Ky's conscience during their journey, complaining that Ky did not do enough to protect those they left behind and arguing over the fact that Ky did not say his poem over Vick's grave as he did many others. In the end Eli decides not to join the Rising, but instead goes with Hunter to the farmers.

## Hunter

Hunter is part of the settlement of farmers. Hunter was married to the leader's daughter, but his wife died in childbirth. When the farmers realized they were in danger from the Society, some decided to flee the area while others chose to fight. Hunter chose neither. Hunter's daughter was dying, so he chose to stay behind to care for her. After his daughter's death, Ky approaches Hunter and asks for his help. Hunter first insists on knowing what is inside a cavern protected by a Society wall. It is filled with vials of tissue samples. Hunter stays behind to destroy the samples, but later rejoins Ky's group to show them the way to the Rising. In the end, Hunter and Eli go into the mountains to rejoin the farmers.

## Farmers

The farmers are a group of people who broke from the Society many years before when it was decided that Citizens should not be allowed to read the writings of past generations. The farmers are a peaceful group who have chosen to live their lives by their own rules. The Society has left them alone for many generations, but recently have taken an interest in them. The farmers feel threatened, so they abandon their settlement to flee the encroaching Society. It is these people who traded with Ky's father and whom Ky seeks when he runs away from the Outer Provinces.

## The Rising

The Rising is a group of rebels who are actively attempting to fight against the Society. The Rising is highly secretive, so few Citizens know they exist. Cassia does not learn about them until she tries to get a map to the Outer Provinces so she can find Ky. The Rising is led by a leader referred to as the Pilot. The Pilot is an ever changing person, leaving many to speculate who he or she might be at any given time. Cassia and Indie





seek out the Rising, but Ky is more cautious, unsure the Rising is really the benevolent entity everyone thinks they are.

## The Society

The Society is the governing entity in the world in which this novel is set. The Society makes decisions for all of the Citizens, from where they should work to who they should marry. The choices of the Society is supposed to make life easier, to help people live longer. However, there are those who do not agree with the choices of the Society and are beginning to rebel.



# Symbols and Symbolism

## Port

A port is a large communication device that is the only source of technology for the people of Cassia's world.

## Mini Port

A mini port is a smaller version of the main communication, research, and entertainment device that the people in the novel use. Vick has a mini port in the Outer Provinces and uses it to receive messages about arriving recruits and relocation of the current recruits.

## Micro Card

A micro card holds information to be viewed on a mini port or port. Cassia has the micro card given to her at her Matching banquet. It contains all available information on Xander. Indie steals this card and falls in love with Xander.

## Messages

While at the work camps, the workers get messages from home on a weekly basis. These messages are often written on port paper which deteriorates quickly. Cassia keeps all the messages she has gotten until they fall apart.

## Compass

Ky has a compass his aunt gave to him. It is an artifact that Ky's mother and sister have kept despite the laws against such things. Ky gives the compass to Cassia who in turn trades it for information to help her find Ky in the Outer Provinces.

## Tablets

There are three tablets commonly used by Citizens in the Society. The green tablets are a sedative meant to calm. The red tablets are used to erase memory. The blue tablets are said to help sustain a person who has no food for a long period of time, but turns out to be poison. Indie, Xander, and Ky are immune to the red tablets.



## Paintings

While traveling in the Carving, Ky's friends and companions find multiple paintings in the houses of the farming settlement and in caves all along the canyon. Many of these paintings depict things that those who have always lived in the Society have never seen before, such as dancing. Ky knows how to paint because he was taught by his mother.

## Writings

The Society decided that overload of information was detrimental to humans, so it chose one hundred of the best writings and art before destroying the rest. The farmers have rescued many of the writings from before this time and hidden them in a cave above their settlement. Cassia, Ky, and some of the others take some of the writings before they seal up the cave to protect the writings from the Society,

## Boat

Ky takes a boat from the farmers' settlement to help Cassia get to the Rising. Cassia and Indie take the boat and arrive without their belongings because they overturned and lost their backpacks.

## Coats

The Society provides everyone in the Outer Provinces with very nice coats. Ky discovers that the coats contain gadgets that track heart rate, temperature, and other information about the wearers. Ky removes the gadgets from his, Vick's, and Cassia's coats, but Indie and Eli elect to keep theirs.

# Settings

## Work Camps

Cassia is in a work camp as the novel begins. The work camp is a place where Aberrations work off their sentences. Cassia is a Citizen but she has chosen to go to the work camp so that she might find an opportunity to locate Ky. Cassia manages to sneak a ride onto an air ship taking new recruits to the Outer Provinces.

## Outer Provinces

The Outer Provinces are the outer most area outside of the Society. These areas were once farmlands and villages. Aberrations are sent to the Outer Provinces to pretend to be villagers and farmers to trick the Enemy. Most of these Aberrations die during the almost nightly air raids before their six months are out.

## The Carving

The Carving is a large system of canyons, similar to a smaller version of the Grand Canyon. Ky grew up near the Carving, so when he is transferred to a new village near the Carving he decides to escape to find a group of people known as the farmers. Ky's father once traded with the farmers and it is through them that his father learned to read and write.

## Farmer's Settlement

Ky, Vick, and Eli come across an entire town built in the middle of a canyon. The settlement belongs to the farmers, a group of peaceful objectors who separated from the Society when the law against art and literature was first passed. The settlement is deserted when Ky and his friends arrive, but they find food and writings hidden in caves above the houses.



# Themes and Motifs

## Dystopian Society

A dystopian society is one that is in some important way undesirable. In this novel the dystopian society is called the Society. At first it does not seem all that bad, especially to Cassia who has never known anything different. It is a society that dictates everything for its citizens from what they will do for a living to whom they will marry. When she met Ky, she learned about his childhood outside of the Society's tight grip. He was able to do things like learn to read and write as well as learn to paint. These are all things that are illegal in the Society.

Ky escapes from the Outer Provinces and goes into the Caving to find a group of settlers his father once traded with, the farmers. When Cassia follows, she begins to learn how repressive the Society really is. Cassia has found poems that are not part of the Hundred, paintings that she has never seen. She discovers freedoms she never could have imagined. A new world unfolds before her as her relationship with Ky grows. It is for these reasons that a dystopian society is a theme of the novel.

## Love

Cassia has been told what to do and whom to love all her life. Therefore, when she is matched with her childhood friend, Xander, it seems like fate. Cassia's relationship with Ky begins to complicate her life, however, when she begins to feel things for him that she does not understand. At the end of the first novel, Ky is ripped out of her life. Cassia makes the controversial decision to go to the work camps so that she might find an opportunity to locate Ky.

When Cassia and Ky are reunited, their love for one another becomes clear immediately. Cassia has made her choice and chosen Ky even though they can never be together if they remain in the Society. For this reason, Cassia wants to join the Rising. She wants to rebel as she believes her grandfather quietly did before her. Ky is reluctant, wanting instead to join the outcast group, the farmers. It is a complicated issue that has the ability to drive a wedge between the lovers. Instead, Ky changes his mind, and they look forward to a future together. The only possible obstacle is Cassia's affection for Xander.

At the same time the novel focuses on Cassia and Ky's love, there are other relationships that touch on the theme of love in this novel. Vick fell in love with an Anomaly girl, a beautiful young girl who makes him feel things he never thought possible. For this love, Vick is sent to the Outer Provinces. It is also for this love that Vick fights to stay alive and follows Ky into the Carving in hopes of finding his love. Another example is Hunter. Hunter is one of the farmers, but he stayed behind when they desert their settlement because his daughter is dying. Hunter loves his daughter so



much that he places his own life in danger to be with her in her final moments. It is a love that is both devastating and inspiring.

## Independence

A part of the reason a rebellion is sparked in this dystopian society is the fact that the people are not allowed any independence. The Society has decided that people had too much technology and that it was detrimental to their survival. For this reason, the society has removed all technology except for ports and mini ports. They have also removed from society all art and writings except for those approved by them. The Society tells its people how to live their lives, choosing everything from their careers to whom they will marry.

Human beings have specific needs in a society. In order for them to find happiness, humans often group together and often follow a leader who tells them how to live. However, there are certain things in which humans need to have choices. They have free will, a desire to choose their own fate. It is for this reason that many become unhappy in the Society. They want to choose their own careers, choose their own mates, and have the right to read great literature or view great art. It is this independence of choice that creates a rebellion, thus becoming a theme of the novel.

# Styles

## Point of View

The novel is told in the first person point of view. The novel has two narrators. The book begins through the eyes of Ky, an Aberration who has been sent to the Outer Provinces where he fights daily to survive. Ky's narration trades off evenly with that of his girlfriend, Cassia. Cassia is a Citizen of the Society who fell in love with Ky while he was living in her borough with his aunt and uncle. Ky taught Cassia to read and write, showing her a world she never knew existed.

The point of view of this novel works well because it creates an intimacy between the main characters and the reader that is important to the reader's enjoyment of the book. However, the writer's choice to switch between the two main characters has the potential to cause some confusion as the plot develops. The author is careful to mark each chapter as to who the narrator is, but the reader who is not paying close attention may become confused about whose head they are inside of, weakening the primary purpose of the first person point of view.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is simple English. The novel is written for young adults. For this reason, and because the main characters are teens, the language is of a less sophisticated nature. The language contains some words that might not be familiar to the reader, or familiar words that are used in a new way. This is related to the dystopian themes of the novel.

The language of this novel works with the plot because the author is authentic to her characters and audience. The language is unique in its use of common words to describe unusual things. The dystopian nature of the novel allows the author to change words of places, people and objects in a way that makes them unique to her story. The author is often careful to explain to the reader what she means by the way in which she uses the words within the context of a scene or dialogue. For this reason, the language of this novel works well with the plot.

## Structure

The novel is divided into fifty-four chapters. Each chapter is fairly short, some chapters consisting of a single paragraph or group of poetic stanzas. The chapters are all given a heading that alerts the reader as to who is narrating that chapter, allowing the reader to not only know whose mind they are in, but also giving a heads up as to where and when the characters are in that chapter since many of the chapters take place in different places. The novel is written in a linear timeline and contains some backstory in order to reveal motivation or deeper understanding of each of the characters.



The novel contains two main plots and several subplots. One of the main plots follows Ky as he struggles to survive in the Outer Provinces and then runs away. The other main plot follows Cassia as she searches for and eventually finds Ky. One subplot focuses on Cassie's friend, Indie, and Ky's friend, Eli. Another subplot discusses the rebellion that exists in the Outer Provinces, the Rising. All of these plots come to a satisfactory conclusion at the end of the novel.





## Quotes

This is how Aberrations end.  
-- Ky (Chapter 1 paragraph 14)

**Importance:** This quote expresses the attitude of the Society against those who have been reclassified as Aberrations. They will not even bury them at times when it is more convenient to throw them into a river.

Ky is gone.  
-- Cassia (Chapter 2 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** This quote expresses all of Cassia's feelings and motivations as the novel begins. Cassia is on a mission to find and be reunited with Ky.

I don't see how there can be more than this. How anything from these bodies can last when they die so easily and decay so fast.  
-- Ky (Chapter 5 paragraph 3)

**Importance:** This quote shows the desperation in Ky's life, especially when he is surrounded by so much needless death.

She is going to survive.  
-- Cassia (Chapter 10 paragraph 11)

**Importance:** This is Cassia's assessment of Indie the moment they step off the air ship in the Outer Provinces.

And even if we did, I don't believe the Pilot can do anything but die and take too many people with him.  
-- Ky (Chapter 15 paragraph 24)

**Importance:** Ky has reservations about the Rising. One of them is based on the fact that his father was attempting to start a rebellion the day the Society fire raided their meeting, killing everyone in the village but Ky and a little girl.

If he and I will ever have time for more than beginnings.  
-- Cassia (Chapter 20 paragraph 6)

**Importance:** Cassia wants to find Ky and build a life with him. However, because of Ky's status as an Aberration, Cassia wonders what their future might hold.

She points to the sky.  
-- Ky (Chapter 21 paragraph 22)



**Importance:** Cassia and Ky's signal for forever is to point at the sky. When Ky sees a person in the distance make this gesture, he knows it is Cassia.

I wonder what would have happened to her if I had died. Would she have cried for me, or would she have gone through my things, taken what she needed, and moved on?  
-- Cassia (Chapter 28 paragraph 6)

**Importance:** This quote shows Cassia's continuing inability to figure out Indie's motivations.

When you've lost everything, why not take what you can before they come down on you?  
-- Ky (Chapter 33 paragraph 16)

**Importance:** As Ky watches vials of human tissue being destroyed, he has this thought. It shows how much he has lost, what he felt about these losses, and how he has grown out of his losses.

It's for her. If what she wants is the Rising, I will help her reach it.  
-- Ky (Chapter 41 paragraph 45)

**Importance:** Ky has brought a boat along on the second escape from the farmers' settlement. This explains his motivations for doing it despite the size and weight of the boat.

Do not go gentle,' I tell him, one last time, for now.  
-- Cassia (Chapter 50 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** This is part of the poem that Cassia and Ky share between them and it is her parting words to him, urging him to return to her unharmed.

It looks, I imagine, as if someone painted stars or flowers at exactly the right time; a momentary capture of beauty that will too soon vanish.  
-- Cassia (Chapter 54 paragraph 10)

**Importance:** This is a reference to the paintings Ky's mother used to paint as well as the fleeing joys in life.